



## **OPI Strategic Directions and Performance Measures 2013-2016**

### **Goal 1: Students Graduate Prepared for College and Careers**

In 2010, Superintendent Denise Juneau launched Graduation Matters Montana, a statewide effort to ensure all Montana students graduate from high school prepared for college and careers. In order for Montana to have a bright economic future, we must continue to work together from early education through higher education to graduate students who have the necessary knowledge and skills to compete for the jobs of today and tomorrow. A quality public education is the key to economic prosperity for our young people and our state.

Superintendent Juneau and the OPI work with Graduation Matters communities across the state to replicate successful strategies that keep students engaged, connected and on track to graduate. Additional strategies to ensure college- and career-ready graduates include: successful implementation of Montana's new, higher English and math standards, expanding opportunities for students to earn college credit while in high school, offering the ACT to every public school junior at no cost, increasing participation in career and technical education organizations, continued support for the Montana Digital Academy, building business and community partnerships, and engaging student voice through the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board.

#### Objective 1: Reduce the dropout rate by 50% from 2008-2016

The OPI will focus on strategies to further reduce the statewide dropout rate and increase the statewide graduation rate.

#### Objective 2: Successfully implement the Montana Common Core Standards

The OPI and its partners will provide technical assistance to K-12 schools and teacher preparation programs within the Montana University System to implement the Montana Common Core Standards and to prepare for the online assessment of students and 21<sup>st</sup> century instruction.

#### Objective 3: Increase college-going rates and decrease college remediation rates

The OPI will focus on strategies such as increasing the percentage of Montana juniors scoring 20 or above on the ACT, decreasing the statewide college remediation rate, and increase the statewide college-going rate for all students in Montana.

#### Objective 4: Expand dual credit and concurrent enrollment opportunities

The OPI will focus on strategies to increase the number of dual/concurrent enrollment students (MUS), increase the percentage of high schools offering concurrent enrollment classes, and increase the number of dual/concurrent enrollment classes offered through tribal colleges and high schools on reservations.

### **Goal 2: Raise American Indian Student Achievement**

Superintendent Denise Juneau is committed to delivering on Montana's constitutional promise that every child, no matter their zip code or their family background, receives a quality public education. In Montana, persistent achievement gaps exist between American Indian and non-Indian students. The OPI will focus on multiple strategies to reduce the achievement gap, including: academic rigor

and high expectations, mental and emotional health supports, parent and community involvement, and culturally responsive learning environments.

Objective 1: Increase American Indian student achievement

The OPI will focus on strategies to increase the statewide American Indian graduation rate, decrease the American Indian dropout rate, increase the American Indian college-going rate, decrease the American Indian remediation rate (data for MUS colleges), and reduce the number of students that have been in LEP status for five or more years .

### **Goal 3: Improve the Health and Well-Being of Students**

A positive learning environment where students are healthy and feel safe and connected to their school is a key component to ensuring our students succeed. In order to address students' mental, physical, and emotional health needs, Superintendent Juneau aims to expand access to nutritious, locally grown food and deliver healthy school meals and snacks to Montana students; revise Montana's health enhancement standards; and expand wraparound services and school-based mental health care.

Objective 1: Implement school-based mental health programs

The OPI will focus on strategies to expand wraparound services in targeted schools and establish goals to expand mental health care services in rural schools across Montana.

Objective 2: Increase Farm to School activities

The OPI will focus on strategies to increase of the number of schools offering Farm to Schools activities, target specific school districts to increase purchase of local or regional food, and provide technical assistance to targeted school districts to increase the percentage of local or regional beef purchased by schools.

Objective 3: Revise Health Enhancement Standards

The OPI will focus on strategies to revise health enhancement standards.